

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Palmer City Council was held on February 14, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

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| Edna DeVries, Mayor | Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor |
| Richard Best | Steve Carrington |
| David Fuller | Brad Hanson |
| Peter LaFrance | |

Also in attendance were the following:

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| Nathan Wallace, City Manager | Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk |
| Michael Gatti, City Attorney | Summer Rife, Deputy City Clerk |

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Mayor Combs.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Introduction of **Ordinance No. 17-003**: Repealing Ordinance No. 428 and Adopting Palmer Municipal Code Title 7, Airport Regulations (IM No. 17-006)
 - b. **Action Memorandum No. 17-008**: Authorize City Manager to Negotiate and Execute an Assumption of Proprietary Lease from Brian K. & Carrie M. Groseclose to John C. & Sharon S. Dieffenderfer for Palmer Hangars Owners Association Unit No. 1 Lot 11 Block 3 at the Palmer Municipal Airport Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - c. **Action Memorandum No. 17-009**: Authorize the City Manager to Sign Amendment No. 3 to the Contract with Greene Garden Services for Gardening Services to Reflect Payments for 2017
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
January 10, 2017, Regular Meeting

Council Member Hanson requested Action Memorandum No. 17-009 be pulled from the agenda and moved to New Business.

Main Motion: To Move Agenda Item D.1.c. to New Business and Approve Consent Agenda and Minutes as Modified

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| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Combs |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

E. COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Item 1 – Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation

Mayor DeVries presented Ben Hermon with the Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of Eve Hermon.

Mayor DeVries presented Gene Horner with the Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mayor DeVries presented Stan Gunthrie with the Golden Heart Lifetime Achievement Award and thanked him for his contributions to the City of Palmer.

Mayor DeVries called a brief recess from 7:08 pm to 7:12 pm.

Item 2 – Presentation on the Bikeability Survey from Council Member LaFrance

Council Member LaFrance:

- Presented the results of the bikeability study;
- Quoted relevant comments received by participants in the study;
- Discussed the economics of the study and the importance of presenting Palmer as a bike friendly town;
- Reviewed quantitative and qualitative data results;
- Reviewed ten recommendations which came out of the survey;
- Highlighted solutions for making the larger intersections bike friendly;
- Suggested the eventual connection of downtown to Cedar Hills; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

F. REPORTS

Item 1 – City Manager's Report

City Manager Nathan Wallace:

- Highlighted his written report;
- Discussed past due special assessments and discussed the possibility of turning a past-due special assessment into a formal tax lien on a property; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Mayor DeVries:

- Requested information on the age of the over-due special assessment accounts; and
- Asked if the list of over-due special assessment accounts could be cross referenced with properties with delinquent taxes.

City Attorney Gatti:

- Spoke to tax delinquency and special assessment delinquency.

Council Member Best:

- Spoke in favor of sending letters to property owners who have past-due special assessments; and
- Highlighted language outlining the rules of special assessment payments and past-due balances.

Item 2 – City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Norma Alley:

- Reviewed her written report;
- Spoke about the 2017 election calendar;
- Noted upcoming events and encouraged Council Members to RSVP to her if they would like to attend;
- Encouraged more communication on events to ensure the Council remained compliant with the Open Meetings Act;
- Informed the Council about problems with the packet and the signatures;
- Spoke to Fred Meyer’s request to transfer their liquor license to the new location; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

City Attorney Gatti:

- Spoke to the Open Meetings Act and commended the Council’s efforts to comply by keeping it to only three members attending.

Council Member Best and Deputy Mayor Combs supported the request for authorization of Fred Meyer’s request to transfer their liquor license. The Council granted the authorization.

Item 3 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor DeVries:

- Spoke to her written report;
- Noted she will be having lunch with Sarah from the Governor’s Office;
- Spoke to a request from the Pew Charitable Trust with regard to restoring parks and stated she would be meeting with them on March 1 at the Valley Hotel and encouraged other Council Members to join;
- Highlighted a proclamation regarding Black History Month;
- Addressed the need for a sign for the hockey rink, and noted it could be part of the wayfinding project; and
- Informed the Council of Alaska 2-1-1, a service to provide people with information and services.

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Reminded the Council the car show would be held at the hockey rink this summer; and
- Recalled confusion with the name of the building causing difficulty for people to locate it.

Item 4 – City Attorney’s Report

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dean Fortner – Manager at the new Fred Meyer store

- Stated he has been with Fred Meyer for 40 years;
- Informed the Council the new store hired 100 additional employees;
- Spoke of the improved liquor department, a sporting goods counter, a fishing department, a full-time florist, a cheese shop and a larger apparel department; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 – Ordinance No. 17-001: Amending a Portion of Palmer Municipal Code Chapters 17.44.010(E) A-C Airport Commercial District Intent, 17.48.010(E) A-I Airport Industrial District Intent and 17.49.010(C) A-M Airport Mixed Use District Intent; and Amending Building Setbacks in Chapters 17.44.060(C) A-C Airport

Commercial District, 17.48.060(C) A-I Airport Industrial District and 17.49.060(C) A-M Airport Mixed Use District (IM No. 17-001)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-001

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| Moved by: | Combs |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Item 2 – Ordinance No. 17-002: Amending Palmer Municipal Code Chapter 12.24.025.E. Regarding Firearms in City Parks, Adding 12.24.025.M. Establishing Hours During Which Parks are Closed, 12.24.025.N. Establishing Quiet Hours in Parks; and Amending 12.24.030 to Update Park Use Permits Process (IM No. 17-004)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 17-002

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| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Carrington |
| Action: | Postponed to the February 28 meeting |
| In favor: | |
| Opposed: | |

Main Motion: To Postpone Ordinance No. 17-002 to the February 28 Meeting and Incorporate the Amendments as Suggested by Council Member Hanson

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| Moved by: | Carrington |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Council Member Hanson:

- Suggested amendments to item J changed MTA Event Center to recreational facilities, provided an exception for dog shows and documentation requirements for service animals. Council Member Fuller supported these amendments.

Council Member Best:

- Stated he did not agree with prohibiting people from going to the park with their dog if their dog was on a leash and suggested the prohibition be brought before the Parks and Recreation Board.

Item 3 – Resolution No. 17-001A: Amending the Budget for the City of Palmer, Alaska for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017, by appropriating \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Water/Sewer Fund for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (IM No. 17-007)

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-001A

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| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Item 4 – Action Memorandum No. 17-010: City Council Statement of Non-Objection to the Renewal of Liquor License #5032, for Arkose Brewery, Located at 650 E. Steel Loop Road

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member LaFrance requested to be recused because he was a part-time, occasional employee at the Arkose Brewery. The Council approved the request. Council Member LaFrance left the table.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 17-010

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| Moved by: | Combs |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Item 5 – Action Memorandum No. 17-011: City Council Statement of Non-Objection to the Renewal of Liquor License #744, for the Moose Lodge #793, Located at 1136 S. Cobb Street

Council Member LaFrance returned to the table. Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing. Seeing no one come forward to speak, and hearing no objection from the Council, the public hearing was closed.

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 17-011

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| Moved by: | Fuller |
| Seconded by: | Combs |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

I. ACTION MEMORANDA

J. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Resolution No. 17-009: Establishing a Wayfinding Special Committee (IM No. 17-008)

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-009

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| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Carrington |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

City Manager Wallace:

- Updated the Council on Resolution No. 17-009;
- Spoke to the intended purpose of the Wayfinding Committee; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

City Clerk Alley:

- Clarified details with regard to the formation of a special committee by resolution, appointment of the members, and pay of the Committee; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Council Member Hanson:

- Sought reassurance there would be adequate public input before recommendations from the Committee were brought back to the Council.

Item 2 – Resolution No. 17-010: Authorizing the Sale of a +/-222 Square Foot Easement, for the Amount of \$4,100.00, Located at 231 West Evergreen Avenue, to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in Accordance with Palmer Municipal Code 3.20.080.D. (IM No. 17-009)

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-010

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| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

City Manager Wallace:

- Reviewed the Information Memorandum; and
- Fielded questions from the Council.

Item 3 – Resolution No. 17-011: Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Utility Reimbursable Services Agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation for Betterments to the Palmer Wasilla Highway Eastern Terminus in the Amount of \$55,311.00 (IM No. 17-010)

Main Motion: To Approve Resolution No. 17-011

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| Moved by: | Combs |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Item 4 – Action Memorandum No. 17-009: Authorize the City Manager to Sign Amendment No. 3 to the Contract with Greene Garden Services for Gardening Services to Reflect Payments for 2017

Main Motion: To Approve Action Memorandum No. 17-009

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|--------------|--|
| Moved by: | Best |
| Seconded by: | Fuller |
| Action: | Motion carried unanimously by all members present |
| In favor: | Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller, Hanson, LaFrance |
| Opposed: | None |

Council Member Hanson:

- Stated he requested Action Memorandum No. 17-009 be moved because of concern for the overall costs of the contract and asked about the reasons for the cost increase.

City Manager Wallace:

- Spoke to the contract and the cost increases.

K. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

- Special Assessment Quarterly Report
- National Black (Afro American) History Month Proclamation
- Pamphlet from Alaska 2-1-1

L. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

M. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Carrington:

- Thanked Council Member LaFrance for his bike survey; and
- Thanked the Mayor and City Clerk for the presentation of the Golden Heart Awards.

Council Member LaFrance:

- Thanked the volunteers of the Wayfinding Committee; and
- Reminded the Council of the Orienteering event tomorrow.

Council Member Best:

- Reminded everyone to drive safely with the snow runoff and to watch out for Public Works vehicles and children.

Council Member Fuller:

- Thanked Council Member LaFrance for his presentation and agreed it was important to develop safe pathways and bike paths.

Council Member Combs:

- Thanked everyone for the Golden Heart Award presentations;
- Spoke to her trip to Juneau and her visit with Shelley Hughes and DeLena Johnson;
- Commended the director of Mat-Su Senior Services and spoke to her visit to facilities for senior citizens while in Juneau; and
- Reminded everyone of the upcoming AML meeting in Juneau and the annual fundraising luncheon for the Recycling Center.

N. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Approved this 27th day of June, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor